

(b) and (c) As per the State of Forest Report (SFR)-2003, the dense forest has decreased whereas open forest has increased resulting into an overall increase of 2,795 Sq. Km. of forest cover in the country. No unfriendly atmosphere for wild animals has been reported from the States/ Union Territories. Moreover, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries have been created to take focused protection of wildlife in these areas under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

(d) The efforts being made by the Government to expand the forest area in the country are:

- (i) Implementation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining forest land through two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.
- (ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forests Development Agencies and eliciting people's participation; through Joint Forest Management (JFM).
- (iii) Providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored schemes and externally aided projects for protection and conservation of forest areas and the habitats for wild animals.
- (iv) Guidelines for rationalizing of felling and transit regulations for trees species grown on non-forest private lands to promote large scale afforestation in non-forest areas.
- (v) State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create mass awareness about tree planting.

Loss of manpower due to illness

1862. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the loss of manpower in the country due to illness by various diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the general health of citizens including containing the spread of diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Government has undertaken several programmes to improve general health of the citizens including containing the spread of diseases. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in April 2005 has been operationalised all over the country with special focus on 18 States. The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. The Government is also having specific programmes for common diseases including the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), National Blindness Control Programme (NBCP) etc. These programmes along with the Phase II of Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCh II) have now been brought under the common umbrella of the NRHM.

Healthcare professionals under NRHM

†1863. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of rural health scheme in the country;

(b) the names of States where the said scheme is being implemented and the item-wise amount allocated under the same;

(c) the number of doctors working at present under the said scheme and the total percentage of them at national level; and

(d) the amount allocated under rural health scheme during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The rural health care

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.